

CHILMARK MASTER PLAN

1. BEACHES

- Menemsha Beach is a public beach. It has a life guard and accessible toilet and shower facilities. There are three paved handicapped parking spaces evenly spaced between the public beach, the bathroom and the fish markets. The one adjacent to the beach is ideal for watching the famous Menemsha sunsets. It is also at the most accessible part of the beach where the wooden bulkhead is at "grade". Wheelchair access to the beach is provided by a "Surf Chair". This wide wheeled chair is very popular with those who use it. There are trash receptacles on the edge of the paved parking adjacent to the beach.

Transition Plan:

Menemsha beach is accessible.

- Lucy Vincent Beach is leased from the private sector and allows access to Chilmark residents only. It is staffed by beach guards who make a "Surf Chair" available to any who want to use it. There are two handicapped parking spaces reserved, but the parking is not paved anywhere and the surf chair is best used there and as access to the beach. There are 2 portable toilets during the summer.

Transition Plan:

Obstacle: sandy path from parking lot to beach. Difficult for those with impaired walking. Chain across access path

Change: Maintain board walk or hatteras-type ramp beyond hardened path.

Remove chain at start of staffed season.

Schedule: 1999-2000 for longer board walk. Scrape path every spring.

Obstacle: Inaccessible portable toilet

Change: Budget for and rent wheel chair accessible portable toilet

Schedule: 1999

Supervisor: Chairman Park and Recreation.

1985

- Squibnocket Beach is also leased from the private sector and is limited to town residents. It has a soft parking lot prone to erosion and separated from the sea by a steep stone sea wall. Narrow wooden stairs are installed over the wall in the summer. They are removed for storms and for the winter. In one recent 18 month period the parking lot and adjacent road washed out three times. The beach is not universally accessible. There is one portable toilet during the summer. Behind this barrier beach is an undeveloped right of way to Squibnocket pond owned by the town.

Transition Plan

Obstacle: sea wall, surf and continuing erosion

Changes: wider, more stable stair would allow unsteady walkers easier access.

Consult with selectmen and conservation commission about feasibility of hatteras-type ramp for the pond access. Study feasibility of a removable ramp to cross the sea wall.

Schedule: 1999-2000

Supervisor: Chairman Park and Recreation committee

structures which would adversely affect roadside views.

8. Study historic structures within view of major roads with recommendations for a review system.
9. Work regionally on methods to ban moped rentals.
10. Planning Board to identify critical corridors and ensure that development does not exceed capacity.
11. Private dirt roads: continue Planning Board policies, adopt methods of limiting speed, plan methods for required maintenance in subdivisions.

refer to page 38

Recreation

In the past few years, public trail systems have been greatly extended through Land Bank and other Conservation purchases. An approximately 200 foot wide section of Menemsha Beach was given to the Town by the Cape Cod Limited Partnership in 1992.

Beach Management

In 1992, 1670 stickers were sold for Lucy Vincent Beach, 726 inn stickers and 770 stickers for Squibnocket. The number of users of all three beaches is limited by the number of parking spaces. An average of 850 people per day for Lucy Vincent Beach, maximum daily usage was 1300 people. Average for Squibnocket was 40 people.

The Park and Recreation Commission is responsible for the administration of the beaches. The docks at Menemsha and the landing at Nashaquitsa are the responsibility of the Harbormaster.

Town Needs

1990-1992

SUPPLEMENT

Beaches: There is ample evidence from observations during the summer season that the existing facilities are being used to capacity. On favorable beach days one often has to wait hours for a parking space at Lucy Vincent; at Squibnocket the leased portion of the beach becomes crowded; at Menemsha the parking area is full. At the present time the conditions are not adequate. As the town grows and the attendance at beaches increases the town will have to secure additional space if it desires to maintain the quality of beach areas for town residents.

Objectives and Actions to be Taken:

1. Consider extending beaches or acquiring new beaches to maintain quality and for growth of town.
Acquire additional beach front wherever feasible.
2. Plan a recreation component in the 1992 Peaked Hill land acquisition.

Lucy Vincent and Squibnocket beaches are open to Chilmark residents and their guests. Admittance is by pass only. Squibnocket is staffed from June 15 to through Labor Day. As required under the terms of its lease, Lucy Vincent beach is staffed from June 1 until September 30.

Several new policies have been implemented during the past five years. Previously, residents and tenants stood in long lines at Town Hall to purchase walk-on and car passes. In 2001 the Beach Committee created a mail-in system for homeowners only. It was a success. In the year 2002 the Committee implemented a trial mail-in program for tenants. These two programs will reduce summer pedestrian and automobile traffic at Town Hall. In 1999, the registration system for beach passes was computerized.

2000-2003
SUPPLEMENT

As the town grew during the 1990s, parking and traffic problems at Lucy Vincent and Squibnocket beaches intensified. By 1998 conditions became serious. Often residents along roads to both beaches were unable to access or leave their homes because of cars waiting in line for space in the lot. Also, full parking lots frequently necessitated turning cars away. A significant move was taken to solve this problem. Inn guests were then denied automobile access in July and August. A new beach bus system was instituted for Chilmark inns, thus reducing the number of cars daily by approximately 100. (Lucy Vincent Beach parking lot holds about 220 cars.)

Rapid growth and a booming economy during the last decade created the need for more staffing at all three beaches. The Beach Committee currently employs a superintendent, an assistant superintendent and approximately two dozen lifeguards, parking and gate attendants during the peak summer months. The FY 2002 budget was \$170,000 dollars, with \$140,000 allocated for salaries. Beach pass prices were raised to pay for budget increases.

In addition to the three town beaches, the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank maintains two excellent beaches in Chilmark. Great Rock Bight is accessed from North Road, and South Beach may be reached by crossing the pond at the Chilmark Pond Preserve.

Goal:

1. As the summer population increases and the beaches in town become more and more crowded, efforts should be made to acquire additional shore property other than in Menemsha.

Public Safety

Chilmark Fire Department

The Fire Department purchased a new Ford Class A Pumper in 1998 to replace a 1970 army surplus fire apparatus. In November 2000 the town sold the 1964 International utility truck used to carry items to the scene of fires, but which had become unsafe for Department operations.

August of 1999 will be remembered by the Department for years to come as the time when a motorboat exploded while tied up at the Menemsha fuel dock. Firefighters and



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OLIVER Updates

Search for a location

Pick a town



Search data layers

Tiled Layers

State Facilities

Census 1990

Census 2000

Census 2010

Coastal and Marine Features

Conservation / Recreation

Cultural Resources

Environmental Monitoring (testing/monitoring)

Images

Active Data Layers

Check all Uncheck all

☒ Legend for Hurricane Surge Inundation

☒ Hurricane Surge Inundation Zones

Legend

Legend for Hurricane Surge Inundation Zones

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4

Tax Parcels for Query



100 m

200 ft

Scale = 1:9,028

261,755.22m 785,254.95m

0 m

Basemaps

1 of 1

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